"[MILONOGIANNIS] IS THE WORLD COMICS STYLE PROPHESIED BY PAUL POPE FULLY REALIZED..."

-JOE KEATINGE (POPGUN, BRUTAL)

OLD CITY BLUES

MOST OF 2011 WAS SPENT TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHICH DIRECTION I FELT OCB SHOULD MOVE TOWARDS. AFTER NUMEROUS FAILED STARTS, I'VE FINALLY SETTLED ON THE TONE OF THE SECOND BOOK -- ONLY NOW DOES IT FEEL RIGHT TO SHARE THE NEW STORY WITH YOU.

YOUR CONTINUED WARMTH AND SUPPORT IS MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FOR WAITING.

GIANNIS '11

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NOVEMBER 2011.
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM

30 YEARS AGO, THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE WAS STRUCK BY ONE OF THE MOST SEVERE STORMS IN HISTORY.
THE ACID RAIN POURED FOR MONTHS ON END, DROWNING ENTIRE CITIES UNDER ITS POISONED WATER.
WHEN THE STORM HAD FINALLY PASSED, THE WORLD FOUND ITSELF IN CHAOS.
GOVERNMENTS HAD COLLAPSED. WATER BECAME CONTAMINATED, CREATING THE ACID RAIN SYNDROME.
THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL CORPORATIONS SAW THE FLOODED CONTINENT AS FERTILE GROUND FOR NEW BUSINESS ENDEAVORS.

DEALS WERE MADE IN SECRET, SIGNING OFF ALL CONTROL TO THE CORPORATIONS --
-- IN RETURN FOR CAPITAL AND TECHNOLOGY.
PRIVATE CORPORATE ENTITIES NOW OWNED AND GOVERNED A CONTINENT-WIDE CONGLOMERATE OF INDIVIDUAL CITY-STATES.
THIS IS ONE OF THEM.

BLH-KA
BLH-KA
BLH-K
BLH-KA
BLH-K

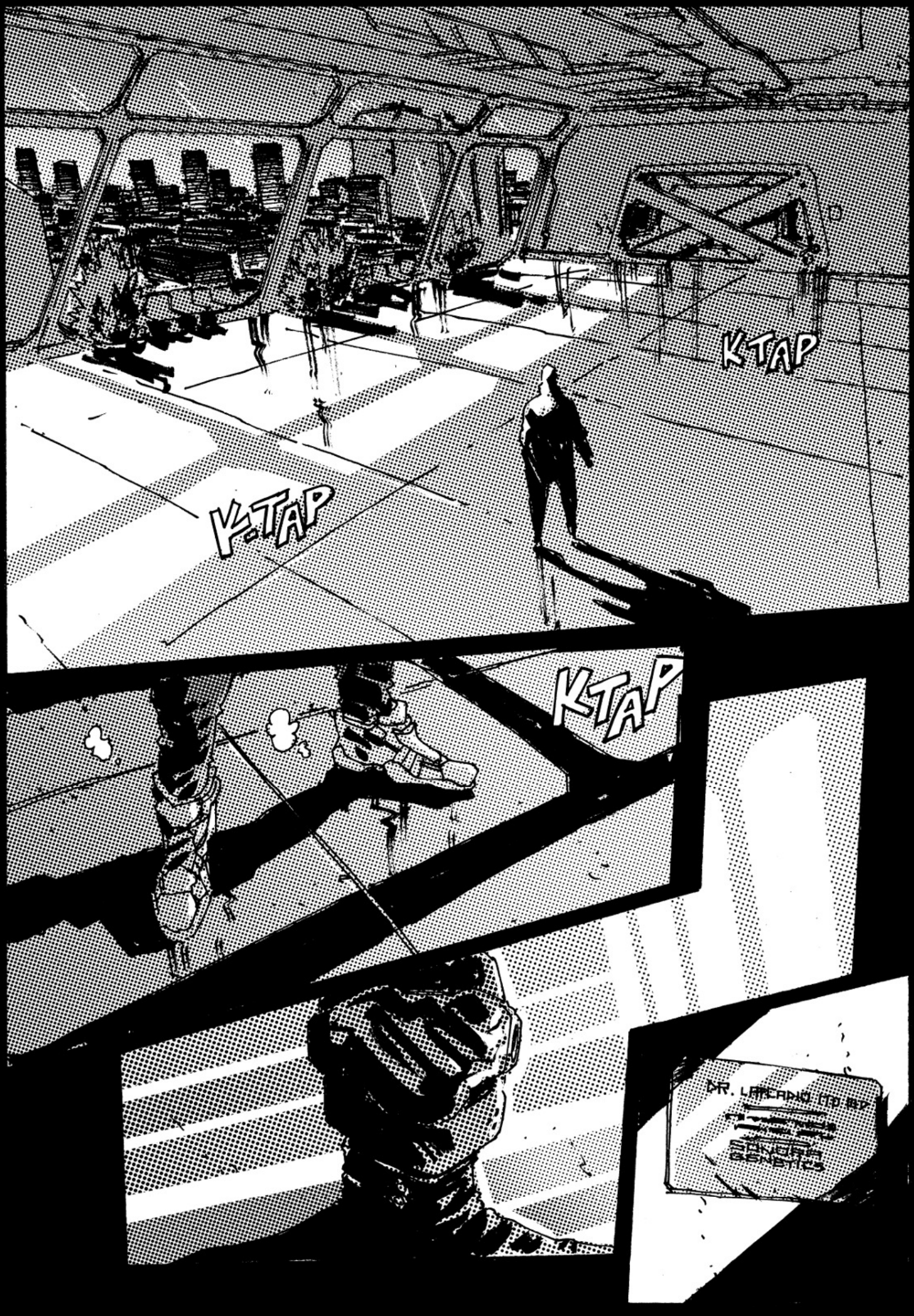
BLAM
CRASH
BDUPPAPDU
BDLJPDJ

BU-KLHA
KLHA
BBBBBB
KLHAU
WE BETTER GET THIS GUY SOON, OR WE'LL NEED AUDIO IMPLANTS ...
HUH?
CAN'T HEAR SHIT OVER THIS NOISE, SOLANO!
GRRRH
I WAS JUST SAYING, I HOPE WE GET THIS GUY BEFORE --
BD-M-SHIK-BMK-G
!
BUBDU
HEY --
EXITO
NEVERMIND, THERMIDOR !

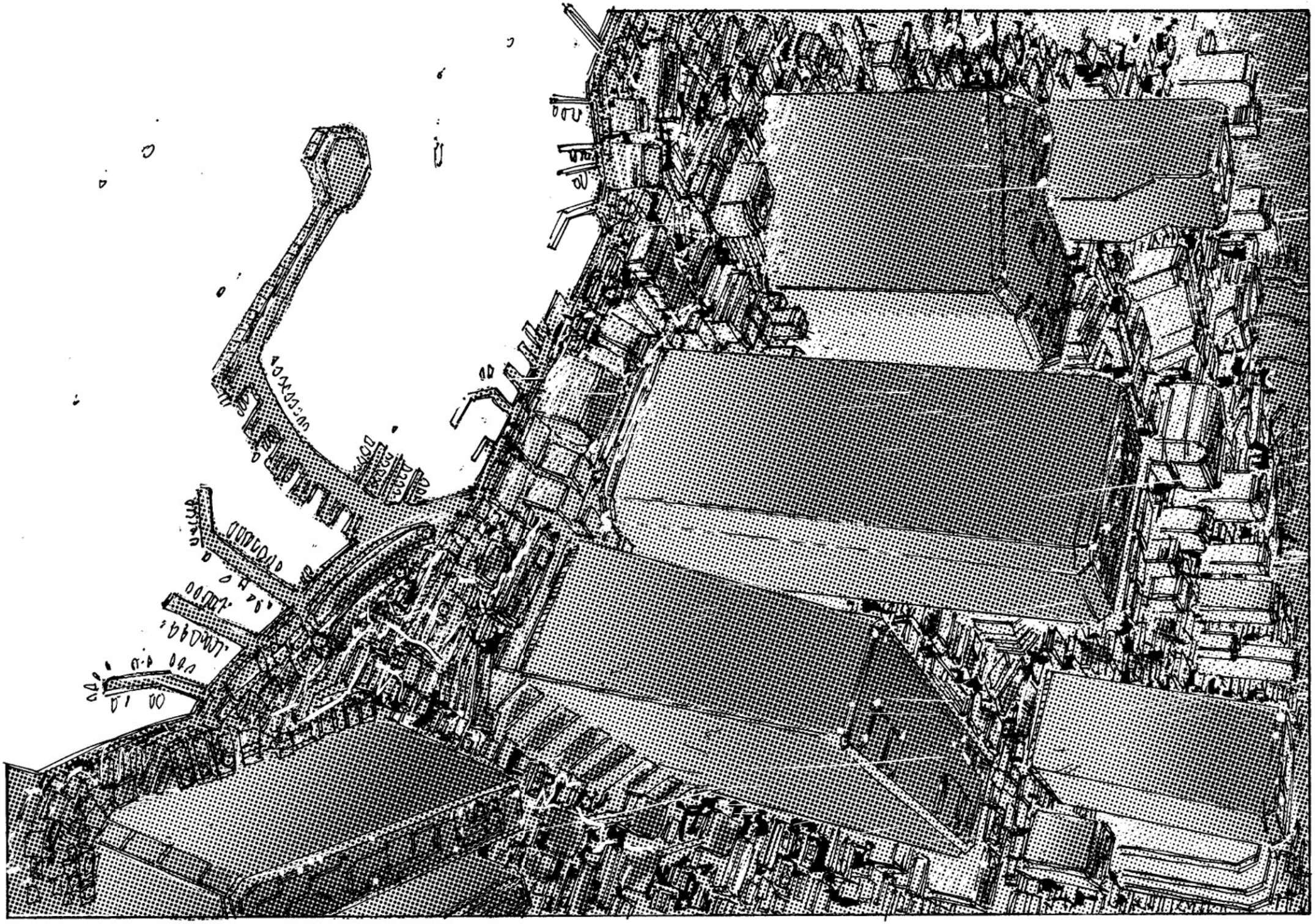
HOLD IT!
WHY DO THEY NEVER LISTEN?
KLHAK
KBAM
KBAM
!
FUCK !
AIN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF A WARNING SHOT, PIG ?
SLAM
TIKY
TIKY

THAT WAS YOUR WARNING SHOT, ACTUALLY ...
>TSK<
OW MAN, TOO TIGHT!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR BRINGING STIMWARE INTO THE CITY WITHOUT A PERMIT.
HE'S ALL YOURS, GUYS.
OH, AND --
?
POLICE
POLICE
-- WELCOME TO NEW ATHENS.

AD 2049
NEW ATHENS


KTAP
KTAP
KTAP
DR. LAMBRANO LTD
SENSORA GENETICS

CLICK
DEET
CLICK
HEY, SYLVIA? THINK I COULD GET A REFILL HERE?
DÉET
CLICK
DÉET
CLICK DEET
CLICK
HUH?
DEET
DEET
SLASH
NO, WAIT
DEET



SOLANO, THERE'S A 187 OVER AT SONORA GENETICS I NEED YOU TO CHECK OUT.
'MORNING, BY THE WAY.
...
I WAS ACTUALLY ON MY WAY TO GET SOME SHUT-EYE, CHIEF ...
>SIGH<
FWSHH
HOW'S A GUY SUPPOSED TO GET SOME REST AROUND HERE ...?
EVERYBODY ELSE IS ALREADY OUT TAKING CARE OF THE RIOTS, SOLANO. YOU'RE THE ONLY AVAILABLE --
OK, OK, I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK.

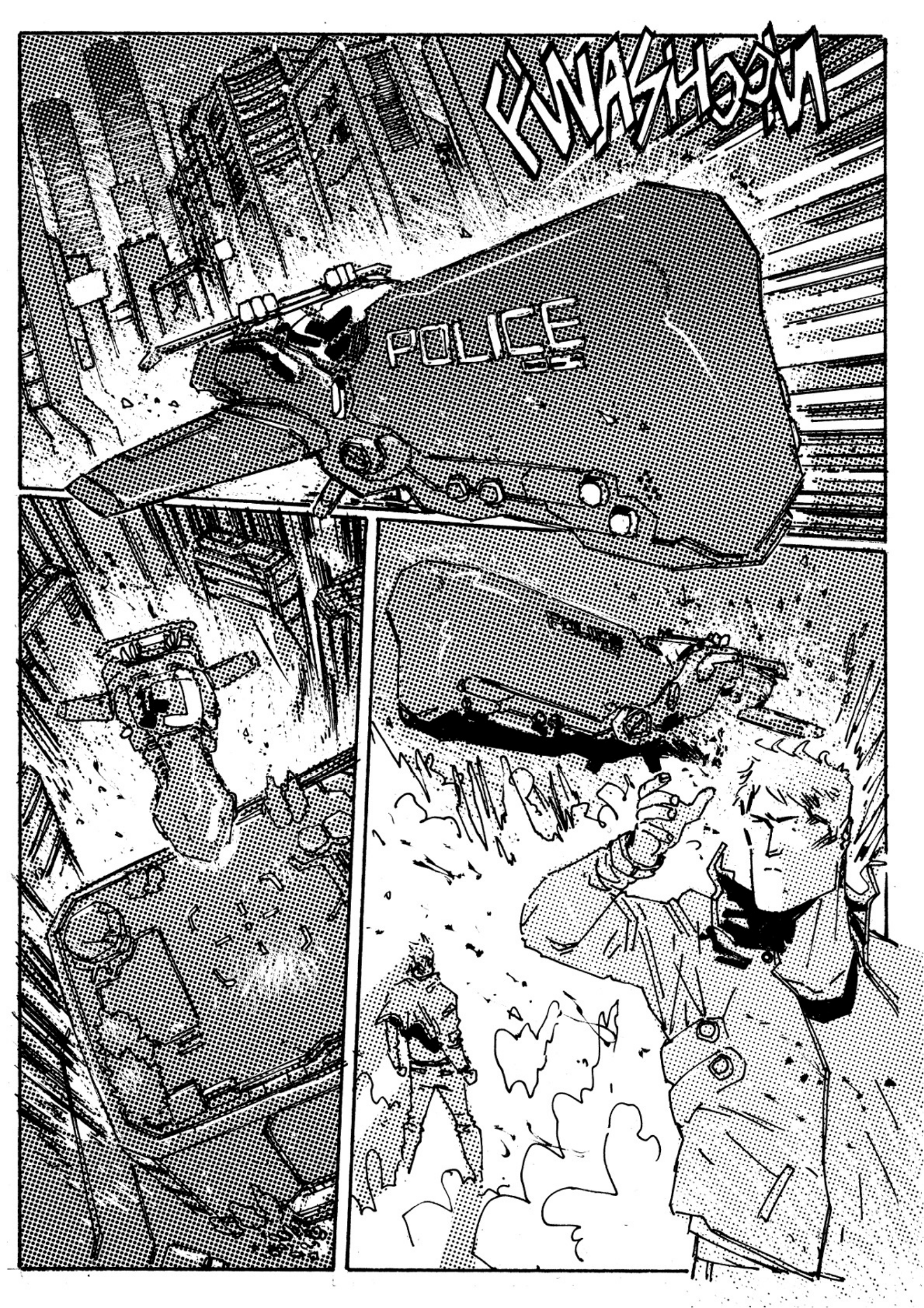
I WON'T
LET YO
CLO
ME

SDX.
THEY'RE EXPECTING ME.
SONORA
-WELCOME-
SONORA
GENETICS
WELCOME TO SONORA GENETICS. PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT IN ACCORDANCE TO INTERNATIONAL LAW, THIS IS A NON-SMOKING ENVIRONMENT--

WELCOME TO OUR FACILITIES, DETECTIVE SOLANO.
SONDRA GENETICS
QUITE THE PARTY YOU'VE GOT GOING ON OUT THERE ...
HM?
OH, YOU'RE REFERRING TO THE PROTESTS.
YES ...
I'M AFRAID THAT'S THE LEAST OF OUR CONCERNS AT THE MOMENT ...

GUESS YOU WEREN'T KIDDING ...
CARE TO EXPLAIN?
THIS MAN IS DR. LAFCADIO, ONE OF OUR TOP RESEARCHERS HERE AT SONORA.
THE DEVICE HE IS WEARING IS CALLED THE MONOCELL-- A DEVICE HE INVENTED AND WAS CLOSE TO FINALIZING.
HE WAS FOUND THIS WAY IN THE MORNING BY HIS ASSISTANT.

AND YOU DON'T THINK HE COMMITED SUICIDE, I TAKE IT.
ABSOLUTELY NOT. LAFCADIO WAS NOT THE KIND OF MAN WHO WOULD LEAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS BEHIND, SO TO SPEAK.
AND AS FAR AS I KNOW, HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY PERSONAL ENEMIES, EITHER ...
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
THIS IS OFF THE RECORD, BUT WE BELIEVE THIS HAS MORE TO DO WITH SONORA THAN WITH DR. LAFCADIO.
WE BELIEVE THEY WERE AFTER THE MONOCELL.


FLASHBACK
POLICE

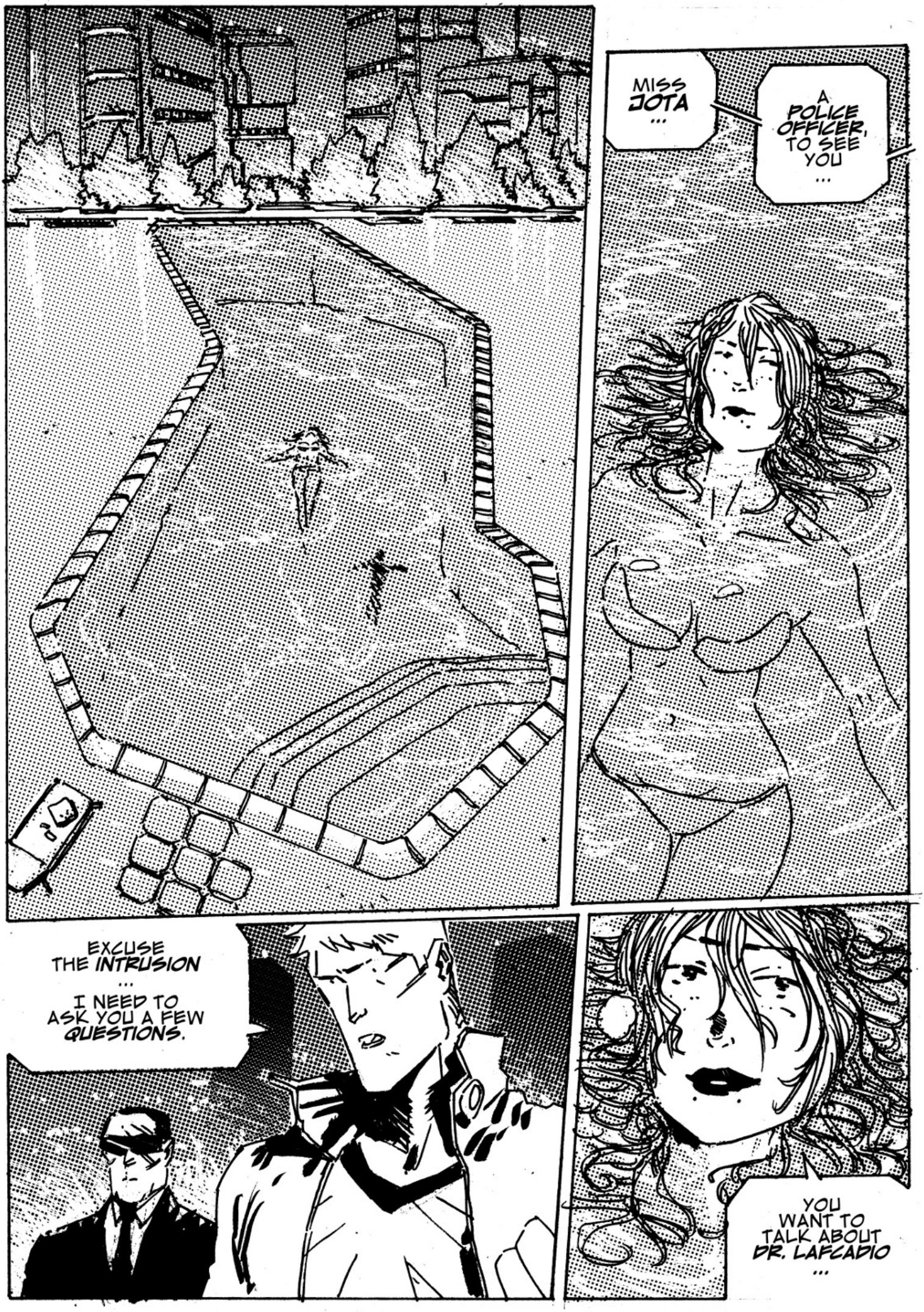
CHIEF SAID YOU *CALLED*, SOLANO.
YEAH. GUESS HE'S GOT HIS HANDS *FULL* PUTTING *RIOTS* DOWN, HUH?
SOUNDS LIKE IT. THE SLUMS DOWN IN DISTRICT 2.4 ARE LOOKING MORE AND MORE LIKE SOME *WAR ZONE*.
LAST I HEARD, THE *MOBILE GUNS* WERE SUITING UP, TOO.
...
SHIT.
DOESN'T TAKE *MUCH* FOR *ALL HELL* TO BREAK LOOSE IN THIS CITY, DOES IT.
I NEED YOU TO RUN SOME *TESTS* ON THIS DR. *LAFCADIO*. FIND OUT WHAT KILLED HIM *EXACTLY*.
WILL DO.
ANY IDEA WHAT THIS WHOLE *MESS* IS ABOUT?
ABSOLUTELY NONE, YET.
I'M TAKING THIS RIDE OUT OF HERE ...
KEEP ME POSTED.

COKE
POLICE
NEWBERG! YOU GOT A MINUTE?
SHAAAH
I NEED A BACKGROUND CHECK ON ONE DR. NAMI LAFCADIO. WE'RE LOOKING FOR ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS --
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT?
WE JUST GOT SENT DOWN TO THE SLUMS!
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN WITH THIS ONE, SOLANO !

ON MY OWN, HUH ...
TAKE ME TO THE PARKING LOT IN DISTRICT A-34.
YOU GOT IT, BOSS.
VROOM

ATHENS IS IN CHAOS THIS EVENING AS RIOTS HAVE BROKEN OUT IN DISTRICTS 2.1 TO 2.4--
--
THE RIOT CONTROL FORCE HAS BEEN HANDLING THE CROWD
--
NETWORK
--
THE SITUATION GOT OUT OF HAND WHEN FRINGE GROUPS INFILTRATED THE PEACEFUL PROTESTS THAT'VE BEEN TAKING PLACE ALL OVER NEW ATHENS THIS WEEK
--
FUCK TH
--
PROTESTING IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED GENETICS LAW
--
--
WOULD ALLOW FULL CLONING OF HUMAN BEINGS
--
--
RIGHT-WING PARTIES AND RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAVE CONDEMNED THE BILL, CLAIMING IT IS --

LAFCADIO'S CAUSE OF DEATH SEEMS TO BE A JJ-180 OVERDOSE ...
ALSO, IT TURNS OUT THE MONOCELL IS SUPPOSED TO BE SOME KIND OF DREAM EMULATOR.
SOLANO, HERE'S WHAT I'VE GOT ...
PERKINS
WAIT-- WHAT?
YEAH, APPARENTLY IT'S GOING TO BE USED TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL CONSCIOUSNESS IN VAT-GROWN BRAINS.
SONORA ARE KEEPING DAMN HUSH ABOUT IT, TOO...
I'M GOING TO TALK TO AN OLD COLLEAGUE OF HIS AND SEE IF I CAN GET A LEAD.
KEEP AT IT -- SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THEY'RE TRYING TO HIDE SOMETHING.


MISS JOTA ...
A POLICE OFFICER, TO SEE YOU ...
EXCUSE THE INTRUSION ...
I NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.
YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT DR. LAFCADIO ...

INDEED. YOU WERE ON FILE AT SONORA AS ONE OF DR. LAFCADIO'S STAFF. I TAKE IT YOU WORKED WITH HIM?
VERY BRIEFLY, I'M AFRAID. I HELPED HIM WITH HIS MONOCELL DEVICE.
YOU COULD SAY I WAS HIS MUSE. BUT I LEFT HIM QUITE A WHILE AGO... CREATIVE DIFFERENCES, YOU SEE.
I DON'T THINK HE EVER REALIZED THE TRUE POTENTIAL OF HIS INVENTION.
WHICH IS...?
THE HUMAN BRAIN IS FILLED WITH UNEXPLORED POTENTIAL, SOLANO.
LAFCADIO WAS A GENIUS, BUT HE HAD NO VISION.
THE MONOCELL CAN AWAKEN THE MIND'S LATENT ABILITIES, BUT HE HAD NO INTEREST IN THAT.
YOU THINK I'D FALL FOR A CHEAP TRICK LIKE THAT?
ANYONE CAN HACK INTO AN AUDIO INTERFACE, THESE DAYS.
HOW ABOUT WE PUT THE ESP BULLSHIT ASIDE FOR A SEC?

YOU ... DON'T LIKE WATER, DO YOU?
THAT'S WHY YOU HATE THE RAIN, ISN'T IT?
BECAUSE YOUR MOTHER DROWNED IN THE FLOOD, 30 YEARS AGO.
!
HOW DID YOU --
DO YOU SEE NOW, SOLANO?
THAT IS ONLY A TASTE OF THE MONOCELL'S POTENTIAL.
IMAGINE THE POWER AN INDIVIDUAL COULD HOLD, IF THE MONOCELL WAS USED FOR MIND EXPANSION.
CERTAIN PEOPLE WOULD KILL FOR THAT KIND OF POWER.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M SAYING I BELIEVE SOMEONE KILLED LAFCADIO SO THEY CAN USE HIS INVENTION AS THEY SEE FIT.
I COULDN'T SAY WHO, BUT ...
...
IF I WERE IN YOUR PLACE, I'D STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM THIS CASE AS POSSIBLE.

SOLANO, GORTYN HERE --
ANY LEADS?
CAN'T SAY FOR SURE YET, BUT THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMETHING EERIE ABOUT THIS CASE ...
EIDI WAS ABLE TO CRACK SONORA'S FILES AND GET A STREET ADDRESS FOR LAFCADIO'S PLACE.
I'M SENDING THE INFO OVER ALONG WITH THE WARRANT DATA. YOU'RE CLEAR TO GO.
GOT IT.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE?

!
KK
141

NO PERSONAL ENEMIES, MY ASS ...
THUD
OUTSIDE ?
RESEARCH PAPERS ...
NOTES ON THE MONOCELL ...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THIS IS WHAT THEY WERE AFTER ...

SHIT!
KAM
KAM
EIDI!
SEND SOMEONE OVER TO LAFCADIO'S PLACE AND SECURE THE SCENE A.S.A.P.!
ON MY WAY, SOLANO. WHAT'S THE DEAL?
NOT NOW, EIDI!
KTAPKTAP
CHCH-
ENGINE START

SKRZZZ
MMM
BAM

SKREEE
KRAM
FWISH
TOK
TOK
SKREEE

POP
TOK
TOK
KA-KOW
SKRAAH

PRIVATE ENEMY PHASE ONE - END

FEEDBACK SIGNAL

LETTER COLUMN NECROMANCY

JOIN THE CONVERSATION BY SENDING YOUR "FEEDBACK SIGNAL" LETTERS TO

MILONOGIANNIS@GMAIL.COM

AND GET AN ORIGINAL OCB DRAWING SENT TO YOU SHOULD YOUR LETTER BE PUBLISHED !

Hello sir!

I remember stumbling upon Old City Blues forever ago (or it seems that way, at least!) on the interweb and instantly falling in love with the art style and the story. The frenetic energy and sketchy looseness in each panel is just so awesome. I liked your art's characteristics so much that I immediately bought Scribbles (I really wanted a physical copy of OCB, however it was not out at the time - of course, I own the hardcover volume now that Archaia has published it!). You hardly find comics now-a-days that go beyond the typical superhero art styles, which is why I love it when I see the more "popular" genres such as sci-fi and superheroes executed by artists with a very unique approach to their art. I love Francesco Francavilla's run on DC's Detective Comics, for example. For me, the art and story of a comic book have to mesh well together which is why it's even more awesome to see artists that handle all the art duties in their book. This is why, I think, the lettering and the sound effects in Old City Blues is amazing and fits in very naturally with the art - something that is rarely achieved at such a level in comic books where the letterer is a separate person. The same can often be said for the other art duties such as coloring and inking, though, as with anything, there are many times when the magic of partnership does wonders for the art. This is something that really gets to me because I actually do a lot of lettering for independent comic books and I always try my best to match the words with the pictures, though I rarely feel that I have done so. By the way, the graphic designer in me really wants your lettering and sound effect styles to be bundled up as fonts!

Anywho, as I mentioned, I love Francesco Francavilla's run on DC's Detective Comics and that's probably also due to the fact that I am an ardent fan of Batman. That means that you won five hundred cookies when I saw that you had done an astounding Batman fan comic on your website! I also saw a recent sketch of Batman that you did and I really would love to see some more Batman stuff from you. Not that I don't love Old City Blues a ton - oh, and I am also waiting for Aptera to be finished - but I really would love to see more of your take on Batman in the near future. Any chance of DC Comics snatching you up for an issue or two of one of Batman's many books?

-Daniel

Drawing a Batman book would be awesome, but only if they paid me five hunderd cookies for the gig!

Also, I hope you won't be disappointed to see I have switched to using a font for the dialogue in OCB. I made the switch with a heavy heart, but in the end it helped me get a cleaner, more streamlined look, which I couldn't pull off with my hand-lettering.

Hello Giannis,

First of all I want to say that I absolutely love OCB. When I read an online comic and like it, I still don't buy the printed book because most of the time I don't feel the need of doing that but OCB is such a fun book to read and look at. I find it very fascinating that you take inspiration from Masamune Shirows work but it still feels like a western book. What's your thought on the mixing between western and eastern drawing styles?

The first book was very action oriented and I was wondering if you explore more of the characters relationships and/or pasts in the future chapters.

I would love to see a dark backstory of Solano. :)

I'm a cartoonist myself and I wanted to ask if you can identify yourself with Solano. I am now in the finishing stages of my first book and I was astonished of how much personality of me got into the main character.

Keep up the awesome comics. People like yourself are a driving force in today's independent comic scene. The world of comics would be boring without you. Greetings from Germany!

-Steve

With the second OCB book, I'm trying to focus on the characters' lives more, so you'll definitely be finding out a bit about Solano's past soon -- but don't come after me if you don't like what you find out! Also, I see myself in every character I draw, which I think happens to most artists who are invested in what they do. (People tell me Solano looks like me a lot, though, which I try to take as a compliment instead of criticism!)

Re: mixing art styles -- I think I'm part of a generation of kids who grew up having the world's best art at their immediate disposal, thanks to the internet. The blending happens spontaneously, I guess -- I'm just trying to copy the best aspects of the various styles out there.

Hey there,

First off let me start by saying Old City Blues is one of my favorite online comics. I know that's such a typical letter column thing to say, but it's true! The high energy art and fun cyber-noir story all makes for a very fun read. And there's some other things that stand out to me about OCB that strike me as underappreciated in the world of comics, and particularly in the world of web comics. The main one being design.

As graphic designer myself, I see a lot of great webcomics but cringe at the poor designs, lack of intuitive navigation, and the like. OCB stands out to me as an example that should be followed in this area. Clean design, to the point, and pleasant to view. I don't feel crowded by ads or giagantic comment sections or pleads to vote on TWC or anything like that. I see clean, solid design and a simple format to read from. It's sleek and enjoyable. So I thank you for that. That along with the chapter by chapter release rather than page by page goes a long way. No more confusion and rereading pages because its been a week or so since the last update, just a large delicious chunk of story just like picking a new issue up at my local shop. Love it.

In fact, I'm particularly inspired by your simple design and formatting, and that's why I created my own comic, Bad News Kids (badnewskids.com) in a similar fashion. So thanks for helping me get a vision!

Anyways, keep up the great work and don't be afraid to move onto more projects! OCB has been great, but I would love to see you try some different directions. Perhaps a darker, more modern tale. Thanks, and best of luck.

-Jared

I really consider design to be a necessary skill if you want to make good comics -- moreso than anatomy and perspective skills, even. When it comes to webcomics -- the internet is full of distractions as is, I don't see how anybody who takes their work seriously would add all that unnecessary information around their comic.

Also, people, go read Jared's comic!

Dear Mr. Milonogiannis,

I just wanted to thank you so much for making and publishing Old City Blues. I love the art, the characters, the writing, the way you pace your panels...

But more than anything, I want to thank you for the inspiration it provided me. I was in a real slump when I read OCB, and it got me excited about my own ideas again. Solano and all his companions in New Athens pierced a gray cloud of depression with guns blazing; with holograms and a mystery and giant robots; with car chases and explosions and deep, dark secrets.

I can't thank you enough. To this day when I am thinking about drawing or creating something new, I will go upstairs and pull out my slightly-worn copy of OCB and give it another read-through.

I look forward to more work from you, and I offer you my best wishes of luck and success.

- A Reader

This is always the best compliment -- knowning that my silly drawings may have helped a fellow artist out in a small way makes it all worth it. Keep going!

Hey there Mr. Giannis!

I have been a tremendous fan of your OCB related work for a while now. I truly believe you are one of the most visually stunning artists working in this medium, today. Your writing isn't too shabby either, if I do say so myself. I should also throw out into ether too, that Greek culture is so rich and creative, and that it is a major bummer that there aren't more Greek comic writers working today! Hopefully you inspire more Greek folk, to step their game up! OCB really got me interested in writing sci-fi (so did Mignola's early Hellboy stuff), and I owe you a debt of gratitude fine sir. OCB awesome-tacity aside, what are some of the films you enjoy? I notice Blade Runner and Akira nods and homages throughout OCB, so I'm curious.

Great of you to read this, and thank you,

-Johann

I'll pretty much watch anything that is halfway decent. What I'll generally do is find a director or style I like and watch everything they've done. Recently, I've been on a major Hong Kong action cinema binge [The Killer, A Better Tomorrow, stuff like that].

And just for reference, some of my favorites: Alien, Yojimbo, Johnny Mnemonic, In the Mood for Love, Leon, Rear Window, Princess Mononoke, Rumble in the Bronx...

Also, there are a few Greeks doing work overseas already. Off the top of my head: Vasilis Lolos, Mike Dialynas, Ilias Kyriazis - just look for the people with weird names-- chances are they're Greek.

*This drawing of Solano is by the great **Matt Cossin** -- go check out his work at http://matt-a-nashi.deviantart.com/ !*

NEXT PHASE - PRIVATE ENEMY PHASE TWO

COMING SOON

ALSO BE SURE TO CHECK OUT:

SPERA VOLUME 1

HARDCOVER EDITION COMING SOON FROM

ARCHAIA

Lono's life as a princess consisted of sitting, reading, and dreaming—until the day Pira, princess of a neighboring kingdom, arrived with news of a waking nightmare! With the help of Pira's best friend—a fire spirit in the form of a dog named Yonder—the princesses now find themselves in a race against evil. The goal: Spera, a magical realm of which the princesses had only ever heard the tallest tales. The prize: their very lives!

Spera: Volume I is written by ***Josh Tierney*** and illustrated by ***Kyla Vanderklugt, Hwei, Emily Carroll, Olivier Pichard*** and ***Afu Chan***, and also includes short comics by ***Jordyn F. Bochon***, ***Cécile Brun***, ***Luke Pearson***, ***Leela Wagner*** and ***Matt Marblo***.

SPERA-COMIC.COM

DON'T FORGET:
OLD CITY BLUES VOL. 1
HARDCOVER AVAILABLE
FROM ARCHAIA.
ARCHAIA
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM
GIANNIS
2011

BLUE
PRIVATE ENEMY
PHASE TWO OF TWO
"...A BLACK AND WHITE TOUR DE FORCE..."
-CRAVEONLINE.COM

OLD CITY BLUES

HERE YOU HAVE IT— THE CONCLUSION OF THIS 'PRIVATE ENEMY' OCB ARC. MY FOCUS ON THIS ONE WAS TO MAKE THIS COMIC AS FUN AN ADVENTURE AS I COULD. SO, I HOPE YOU'LL GET TO HAVE SOME UNAPOLOGETIC FUNTIMES WITH 'PRIVATE ENEMY'.

AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU FOR READING AND STICKING AROUND.

GIANNIS
2012

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JANUARY 2012, YEAR OF THE WATER DRAGON.
WWW.OLDCITYBLUES.COM

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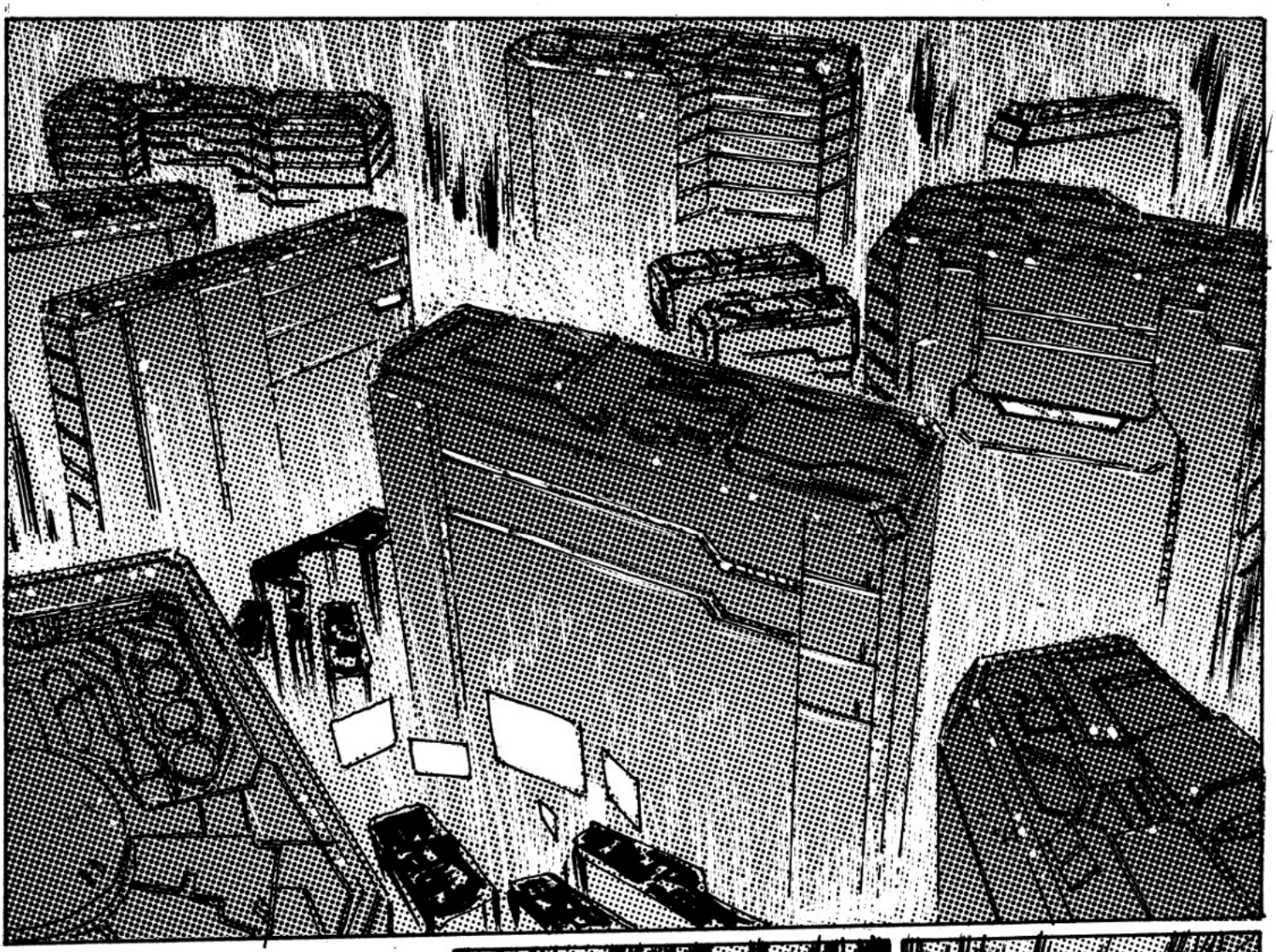


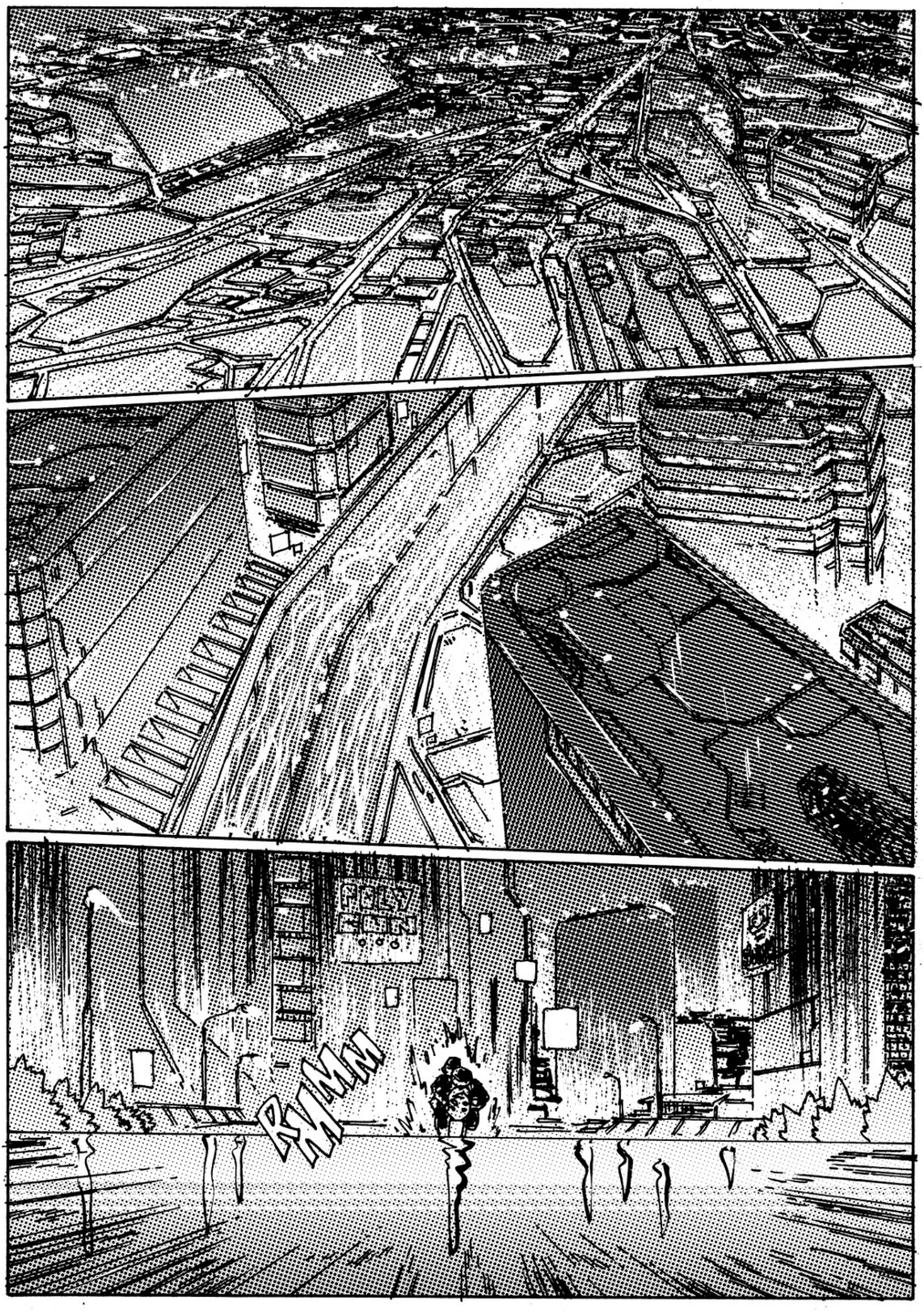
THE STORY SO FAR:

When genetics researcher Dr. Lafcadio is found murdered in his office at Sonora Genetics, Solano is called in to investigate the mysterious circumstances surrounding his death.

With Eidi's help, Solano finds out the victim had been working on a device called the Monocell -- an invention essential to the creation of consciousness in artificially manufactured brains.

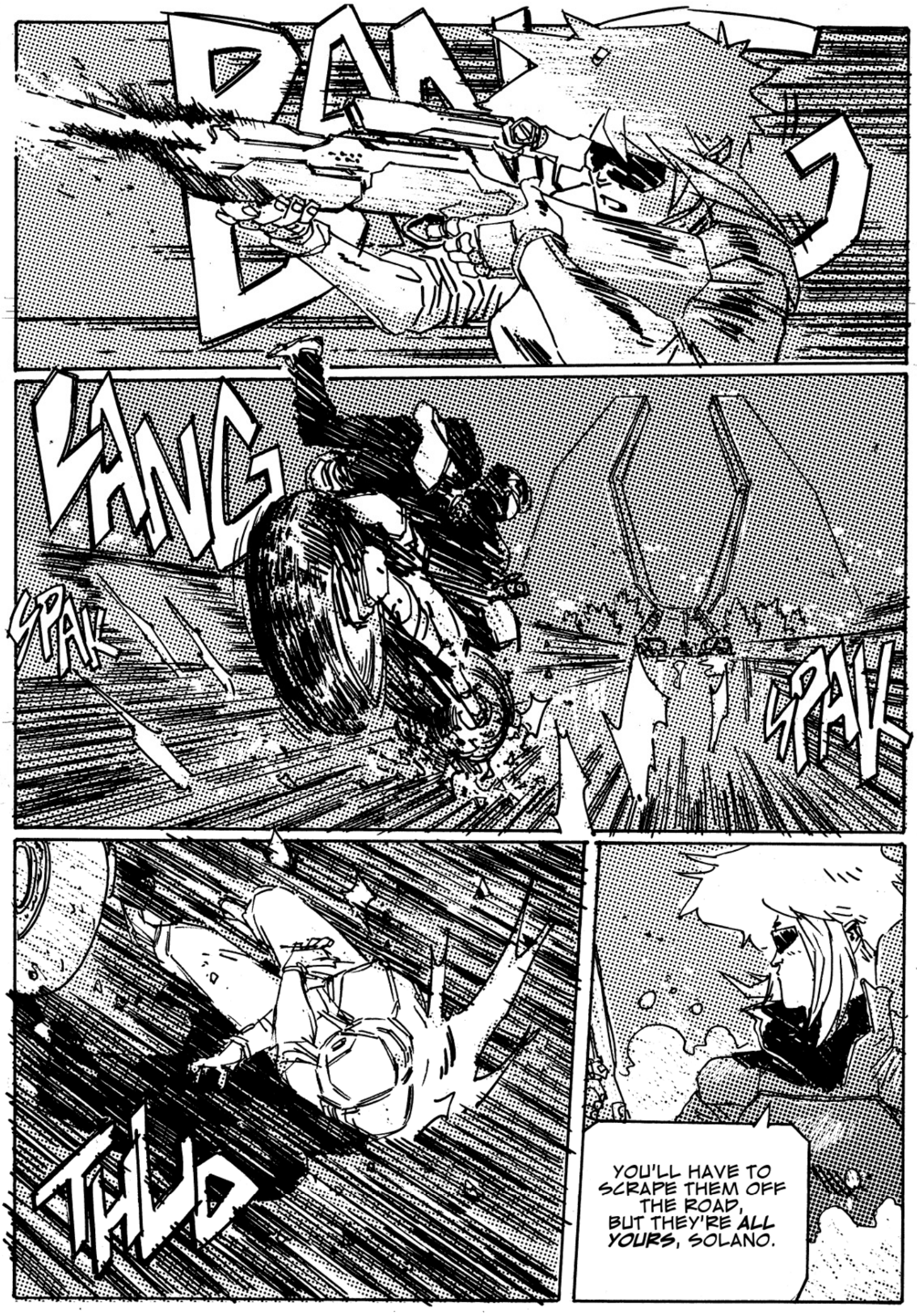
While questioning an ex-colleague of Dr. Lafcadio's --an Esper called Jota-- Solano learns of the device's possible use in the augmentation of the average human brain in the field of extrasensory perception.

Solano finds Lafcadio's residence broken into, and pursuits the mysterious thieves until they advertently blow his car up with a hand-grenade. Now, it's up to Thernidor to stop the criminals from escaping.


RMM

WAAH
VSHHHH
!
EXIT
DOWNTN
DISTRICT

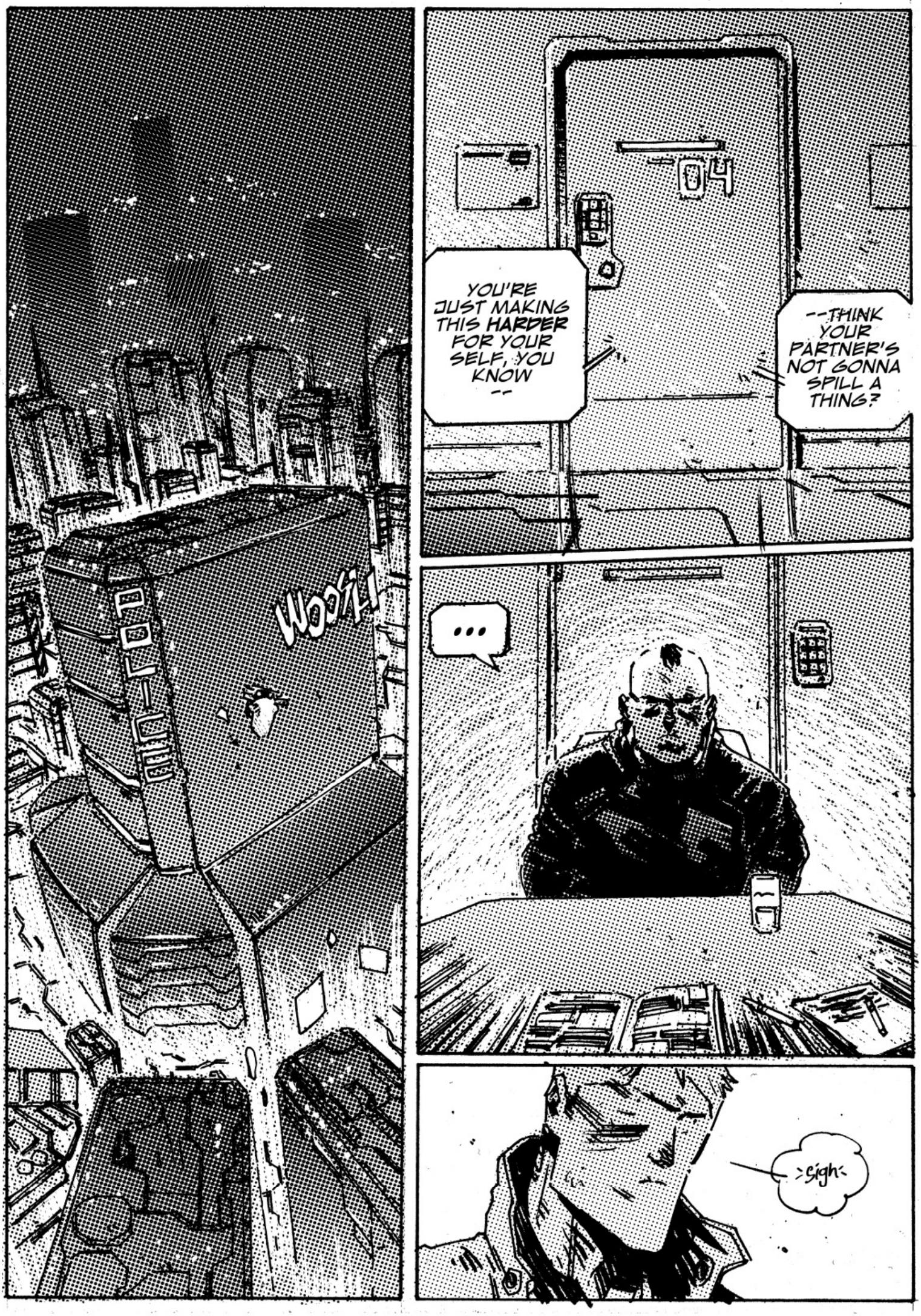
RAT FELL IN THE TRAP JUST LIKE YOU SAID, SOLANO.
DON'T LET THEM BREAK THROUGH, THERMIDOR.
HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT, PARTNER ...
GRRR
I'VE GOT THIS.


BAM
BANG
SPAK
SPAK
THUD
YOU'LL HAVE TO SCRAPE THEM OFF THE ROAD, BUT THEY'RE *ALL YOURS*, SOLANO.

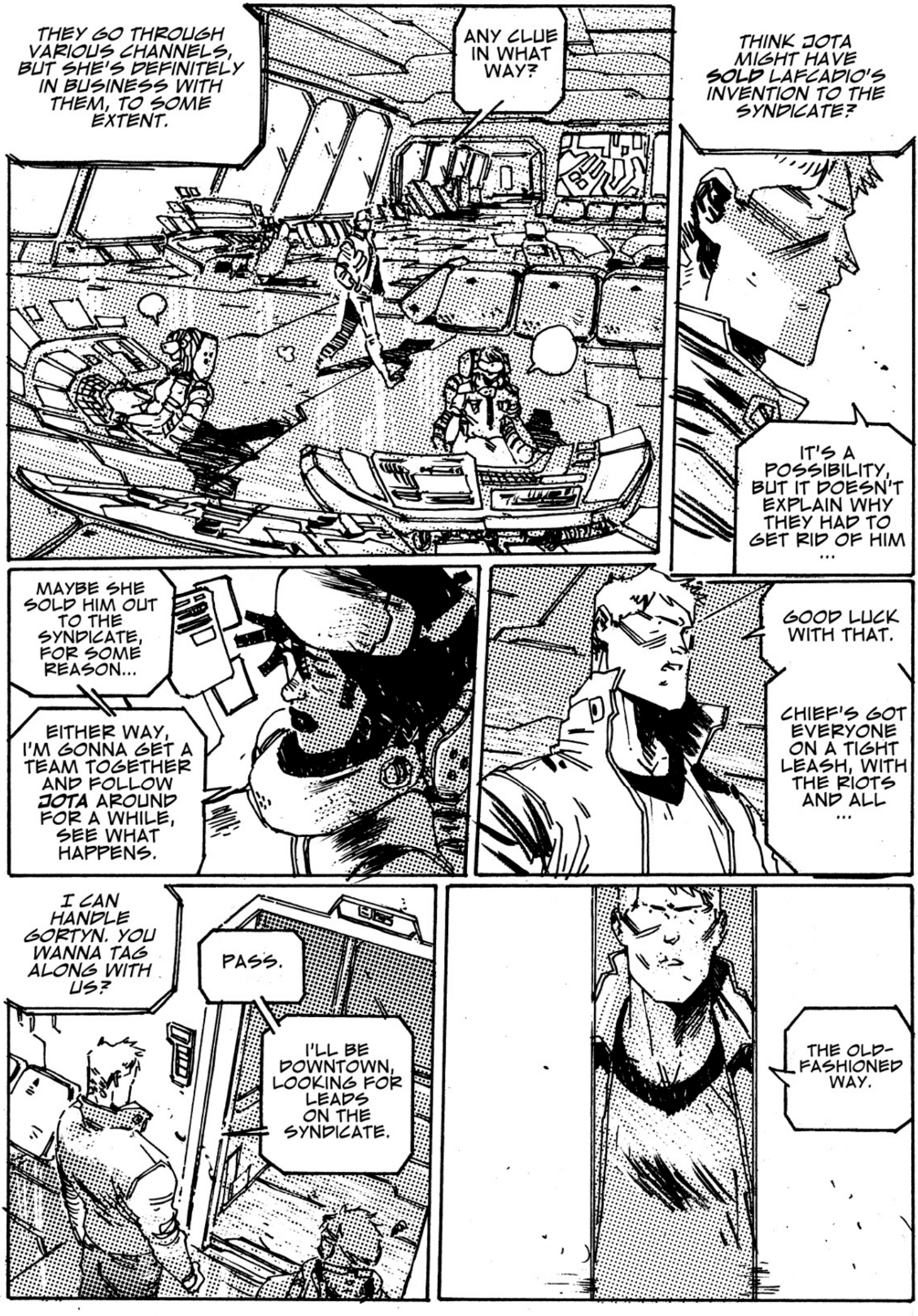
SOLANO! HOW YOU HOLDING UP?
POLICE
STILL IN ONE PIECE.
THEY BEEN TALKING AT ALL?
NOT A PEEP, BUT WE FOUND SOMETHING STASHED IN THEIR BACKPACK.
LOOKS LIKE SOME KIND OF DATA-CHIP.
YEAH-- EIDI SHOULD BE ABLE TO HELP YOU OUT WITH THIS BABY.
HEY, SOLANO?
HAS THE THOUGHT CROSSED YOUR MIND THAT YOU MIGHT BE TURNING INTO A BIT OF A LOOSE CANNON?
?
COMING FROM YOU, THAT ALMOST SOUNDS LIKE A COMPLIMENT, THERMIDOR.
WELL, IT'S NOT.
WE NEED SOMEONE AROUND HERE WITH THEIR FEET ON THE GROUND.
ANYWAY, THERE'S PROBABLY A RIOT OR SOMETHING I NEED TO BE HELPING WITH.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
...

WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT?
CITIZENS, YOU ARE HEREBY WARNED OF HEAVY TRAFFIC GONGESTION IN DISTRICT 5.3 DUE TO RIOTS TAKING PLACE IN SAID AREA --
-- FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY, YOU ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO AVOID --

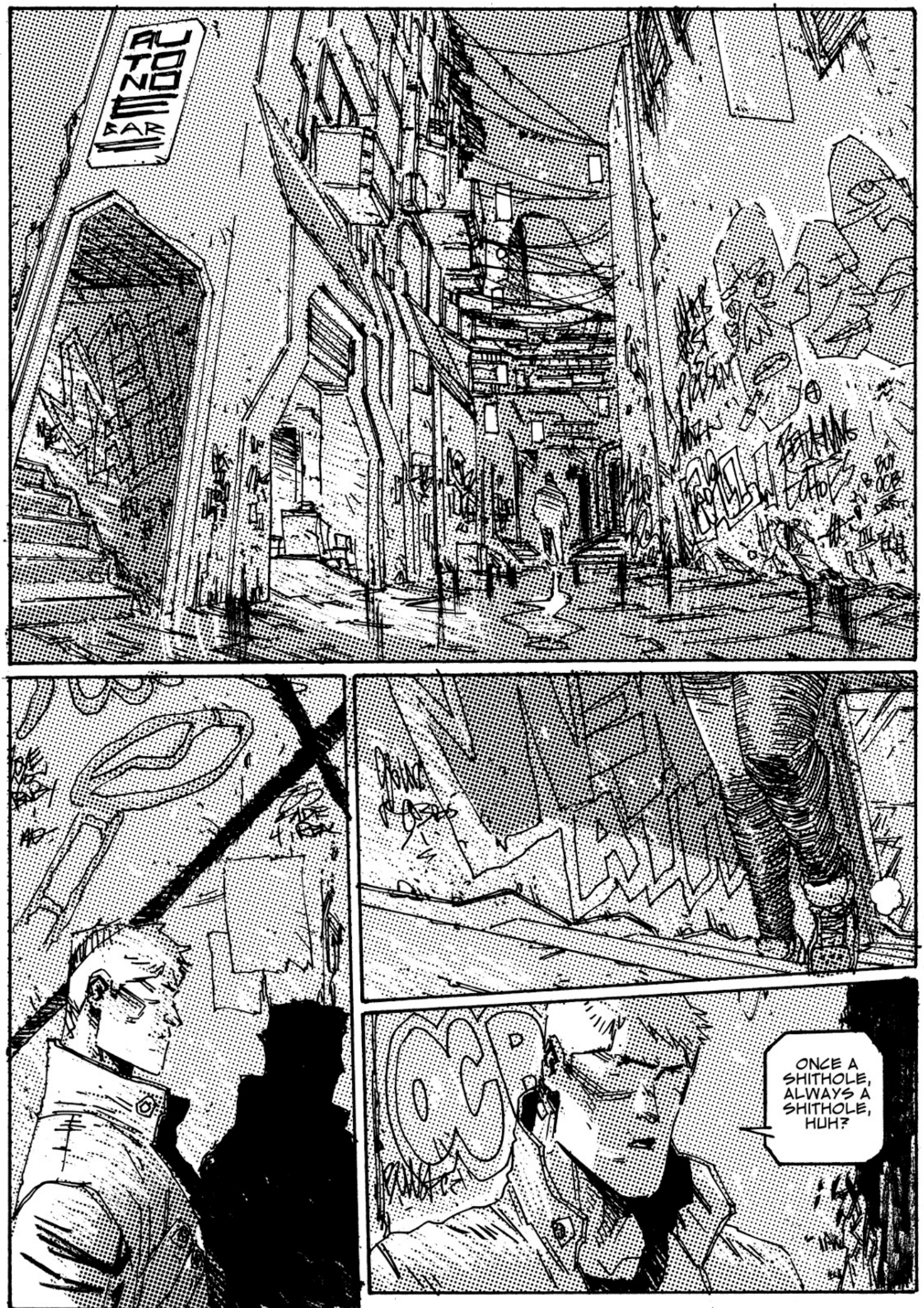
POLICE


WOOSH
POLICE
04
YOU'RE JUST MAKING THIS HARDER FOR YOUR SELF, YOU KNOW --
--THINK YOUR PARTNER'S NOT GONNA SPILL A THING?
...
:sigh:

THIS IS A WASTE OF TIME.
THEY'RE NEVER GOING TO TALK.
GOOD THING WE DON'T NEED THEM TO, THEN, HUH?
I WAS ABLE TO CRACK THE DATA-CHIP YOU FOUND ON THOSE BIKERS, SOLANO.
I'M ALL EARS, EIDI.
IT LOOKS LIKE LAFCADIO FOUND A WAY TO EMULATE THE EFFECTS OF JJ-180 ON THE BRAIN, USING THE MONOCELL.
THIS FILE WAS STASHED AT HIS PLACE, SO WE CAN ASSUME SONORA NEVER FOUND OUT ABOUT THIS.
HM.
ALSO, I RAN A CHECK ON YOUR ESPER GIRLFRIEND, JOTA -- SHE TRIES TO LOOK CLEAN, BUT I DUG UP SOME DIRT ON HER ...
LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN GETTING SOME CREDIT ON THE SIDE FROM THE SYNDICATE.


THEY GO THROUGH VARIOUS CHANNELS, BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY IN BUSINESS WITH THEM, TO SOME EXTENT.
ANY CLUE IN WHAT WAY?
THINK JOTA MIGHT HAVE SOLD LAFCADIO'S INVENTION TO THE SYNDICATE?
IT'S A POSSIBILITY, BUT IT DOESN'T EXPLAIN WHY THEY HAD TO GET RID OF HIM ...
MAYBE SHE SOLD HIM OUT TO THE SYNDICATE, FOR SOME REASON...
EITHER WAY, I'M GONNA GET A TEAM TOGETHER AND FOLLOW JOTA AROUND FOR A WHILE, SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
CHIEF'S GOT EVERYONE ON A TIGHT LEASH, WITH THE RIOTS AND ALL ...
I CAN HANDLE GORTYN. YOU WANNA TAG ALONG WITH US?
PASS.
I'LL BE DOWNTOWN, LOOKING FOR LEADS ON THE SYNDICATE.
THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY.

WE'RE HONORED TO HAVE MR. DORUS WITH US TONIGHT.
MR. DORUS IS AN EXPERT ON PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES, AND WILL TALK TO US ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK ON THE SUBJECT.
THANK YOU FOR HAVING ME.
MY NEW BOOK IS AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTS OF ONE PARTICULAR SUBSTANCE ON SOCIETY--
YOU'RE REFERING TO JJ-180, IS THAT RIGHT?
INDEED, THE MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE THAT HAS BECOME SO POPULAR IN OUR CITY.
OUR MAIN CONCERN AT THIS POINT IS THE DRUG'S WIDESPREAD INFLUENCE ON OUR CITY'S YOUTH.
AND, PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF ITS SHADOWY ORIGIN.
THE BOOK OFFERS A NUMBER OF THEORIES ON THE DRUG'S ORIGINS, I MUST SAY. SOME THINK IT IS A BRAINWASHING DEVICE USED BY THE GOVERNMENT, OTHERS CONSIDER IT TO BE A GIFT FROM SOME HIGHER INTELLIGENCE --
FASCINATING, BUT--
--I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL THE TIME WE HAVE FOR THIS SEGMENT!
AND REMEMBER-- STAY AWAY FROM THE HARD STUFF, KIDS!


AUTONE
BAR
ONCE A SHITHOLE, ALWAYS A SHITHOLE, HUH?

BA-DBDM
BU-BU
BU-CHKA
GOT A DELIVERY FOR A MR. BOOLE, HERE.
UP THE STAIRS IN THE BACK.
OI, BOSS-- SOMEONE'S LOOKING FOR YOU.
LOOKS LIKE TROUBLE.
K-TAP
!
S-SHIT!

KRAM
THEY FOUND ME OUT!
KBAM
I JUST WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
CLANK
KRASH
CLANG
KRUH

STAY AWAY!
ARGH!
GR-K
CRK
CRK
CRASH
YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO DO BETTER THAN THAT.
HAHAHA
RUSH

SPLASH
!
OUTTA THE WAY!
THE SYNDICATE'S AFTER ME!
THAT IDIOT THINKS I'M FROM THE SYNDICATE?
GREAT.
HONK
BEEP

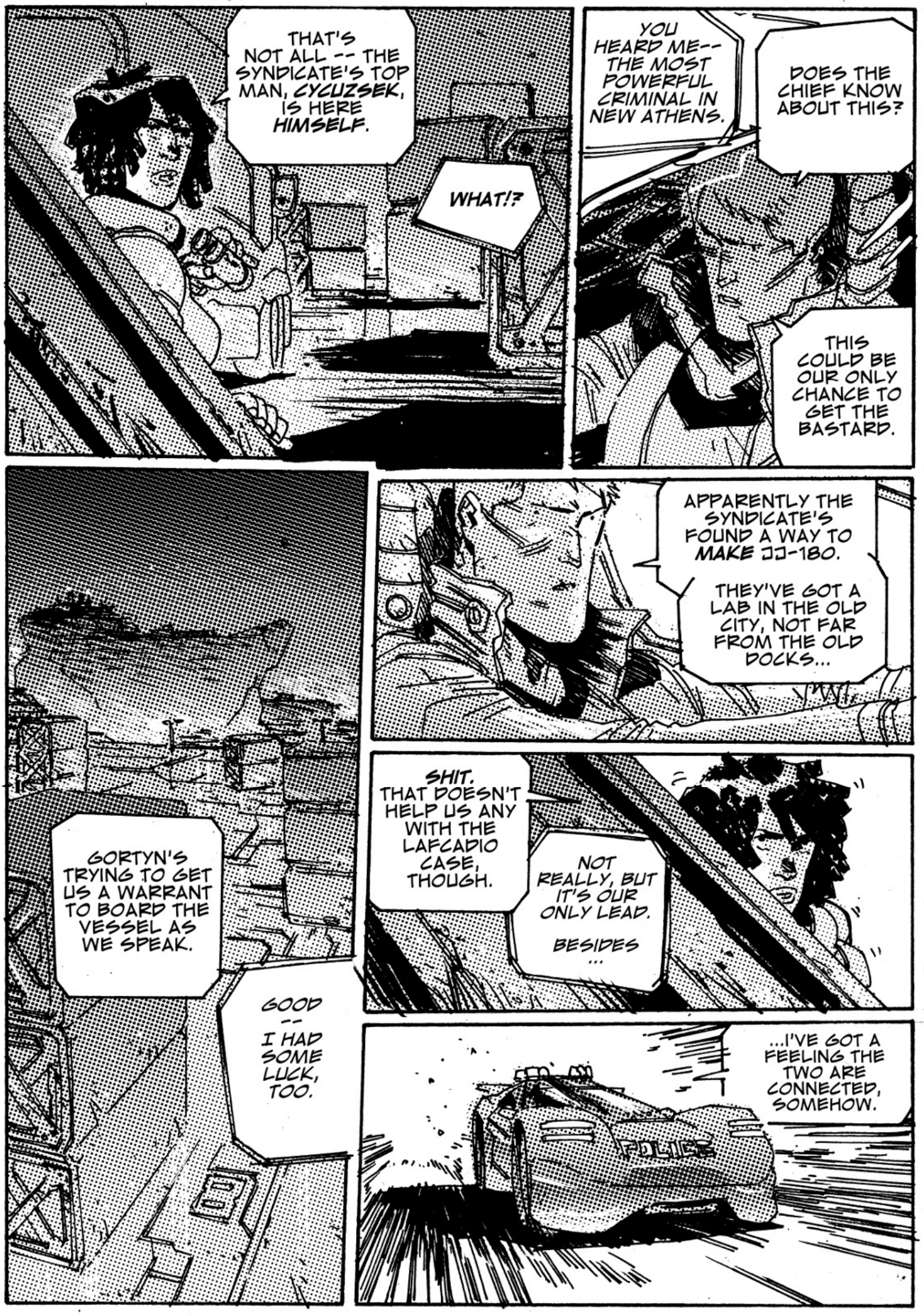
IF THE SYNDICATE IS AFTER THIS GUY, IT MUST MEAN HE KNOWS SOMETHING.
NOW, WHERE THE HELL DID HE GO?
SPLISH
GOT HIM!
KLANG
BEEP
HONK

THUNK
HOLD IT, BOOLE!
I'M NOT WITH THE SYNDICATE!
I AM GOING TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS, THOUGH --
SYNDICATE OR NOT, YOU AIN'T GETTING ME!
THUNK

FUNK!
GRAB
TWIST
AIEE!
SO, WHY EXACTLY ARE YOU RUNNING FROM THE SYNDICATE?
OK, OK -- I'LL TALK, MAN ...
OUCH ...

IT'S ABOUT THAT DRUG, JJ-180. WORD ON THE STREET WAS THAT THE SYNDICATE'S BEEN PUSHING HUGE AMOUNTS OF THE THING LATELY...
...
THERE ARE WORSE THINGS THAN DEATH.
THEY'LL KILL ME IF THEY FIND OUT--
THAT'S THE *THING*, MAN! THEY'VE FOUND A WAY TO REPLICATE THE SHIT IT DOES TO YOU, SOMEHOW. AND THAT'S JUST HALF OF WHAT I FOUND OUT, BROTHER ...
IMPOSSIBLE-- NOBODY EVEN KNOWS WHAT IT'S MADE OF.
SO, AS A BUSINESSMAN, I TAKE AN INTEREST IN THESE THINGS, RIGHT? I LOOK INTO IT, AND I FIND OUT THE SYNDICATE IS ACTUALLY *MAKING* THE DRUG, RIGHT HERE, UNDER YOUR NOSES.
I'M LISTENING, BOOLE ...
SO, HOW 'BOUT YOU AND I MAKE A DEAL OF OUR *OWN*?

CHECK THIS OUT, SOLANO ...
YEAH?
WE FOLLOWED JOTA DOWN TO THE OLD DOCKS --
-- AND SHE LED US STRAIGHT TO A DRUG DEAL WITH THE SYNDICATE.

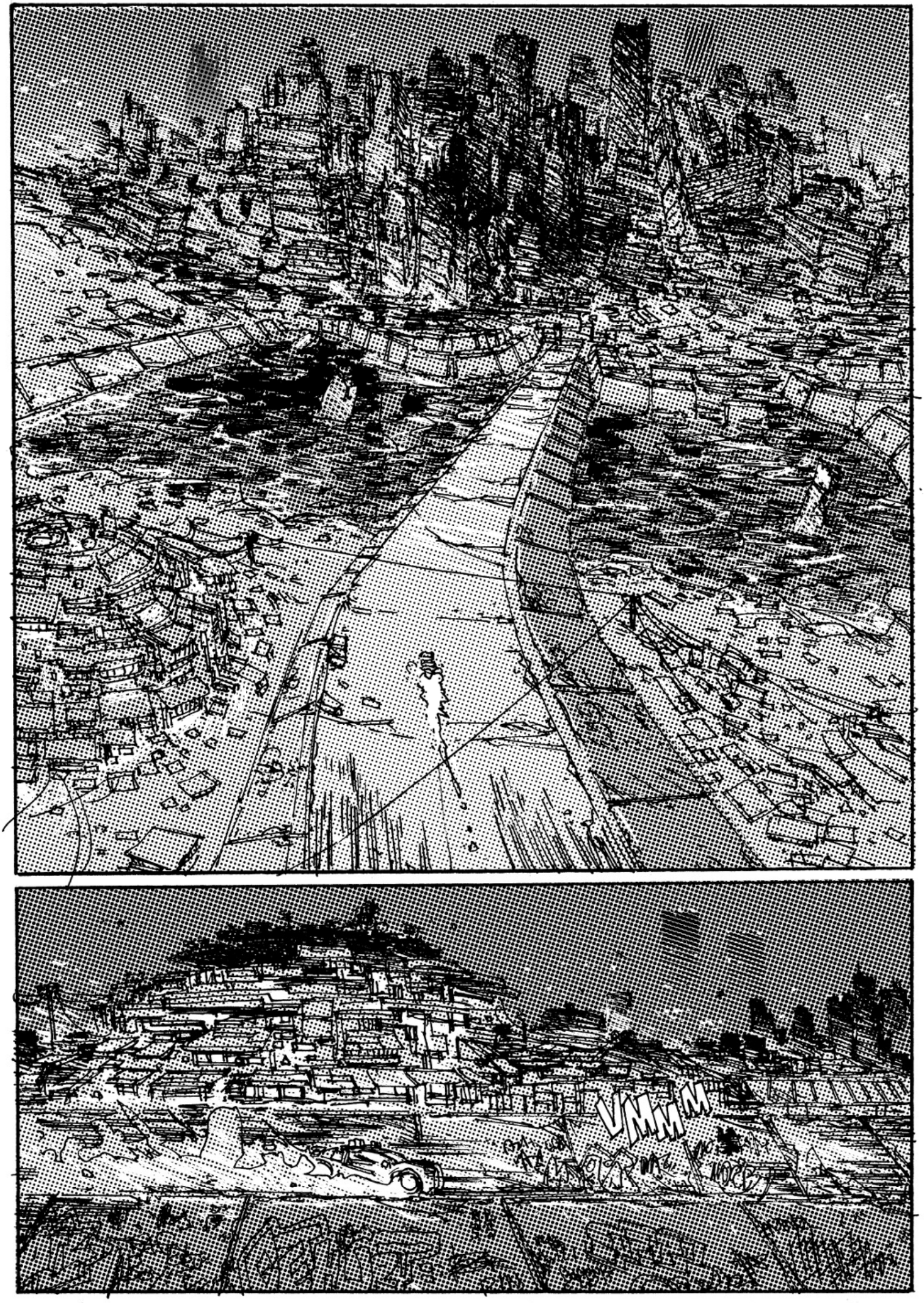

THAT'S NOT ALL -- THE SYNDICATE'S TOP MAN, CYCUZSEK, IS HERE HIMSELF.
WHAT!?
YOU HEARD ME-- THE MOST POWERFUL CRIMINAL IN NEW ATHENS.
DOES THE CHIEF KNOW ABOUT THIS?
THIS COULD BE OUR ONLY CHANCE TO GET THE BASTARD.
APPARENTLY THE SYNDICATE'S FOUND A WAY TO MAKE JJ-180.
THEY'VE GOT A LAB IN THE OLD CITY, NOT FAR FROM THE OLD DOCKS...
GORTYN'S TRYING TO GET US A WARRANT TO BOARD THE VESSEL AS WE SPEAK.
GOOD -- I HAD SOME LUCK, TOO.
SHIT. THAT DOESN'T HELP US ANY WITH THE LAFCADIO CASE, THOUGH.
NOT REALLY, BUT IT'S OUR ONLY LEAD.
BESIDES ...
POLICE
...I'VE GOT A FEELING THE TWO ARE CONNECTED, SOMEHOW.

EIDI, YOU'RE CLEAR TO MOVE AHEAD WITH THE OPERATION.
TRY TO GET CYCUZSEK ALIVE, RIGHT?
SURE THING.
SOLANO, YOU WANT US TO WAIT FOR YOU, OR WHAT?
YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO WASTE TIME NOW, EIDI -- GO GET HIM.
I'LL CHECK OUT THE LAB IN THE OLD CITY.
HEY, JUST A SEC--
KABOOM
SKRT

WSHH
LOOKS LIKE JOTA'S TAKING A RIDE OUT OF HERE, SOLANO.
I'LL HANDLE JOTA --
YOU JUST FOCUS ON CATCHING CYCUZSEK!
YOU HEARD THE MAN, EVERYONE.
LET'S GO.
KCHAK KTAP
KTAP
FWSHH

WHEN'S THIS GODAMN RAIN EVER GONNA LET UP?
TELL ME ABOUT IT, MAN ...
!
KRAK
HOLD IT!
WAIT, DON'T SHOOT!
WE GIVE UP!

what
THAT BITCH JOTA, BETRAYED US.
CYCUZSEK ...
SHE MURDERED HIM...
SOLANO--
-- IT'S ONE HELL OF A MESS OUT HERE.
CYCUZSEK'S DEAD --JOTA GOT HIM WITH SOME SPIKED JJ-180 ...
MESSING WITH THE SYNDICATE LIKE THIS... SHE MUST HAVE A DEATH WISH.
I'LL MAKE SURE TO GET TO HER FIRST, THEN.
WEOO
WEOO
POLICE
TARAN

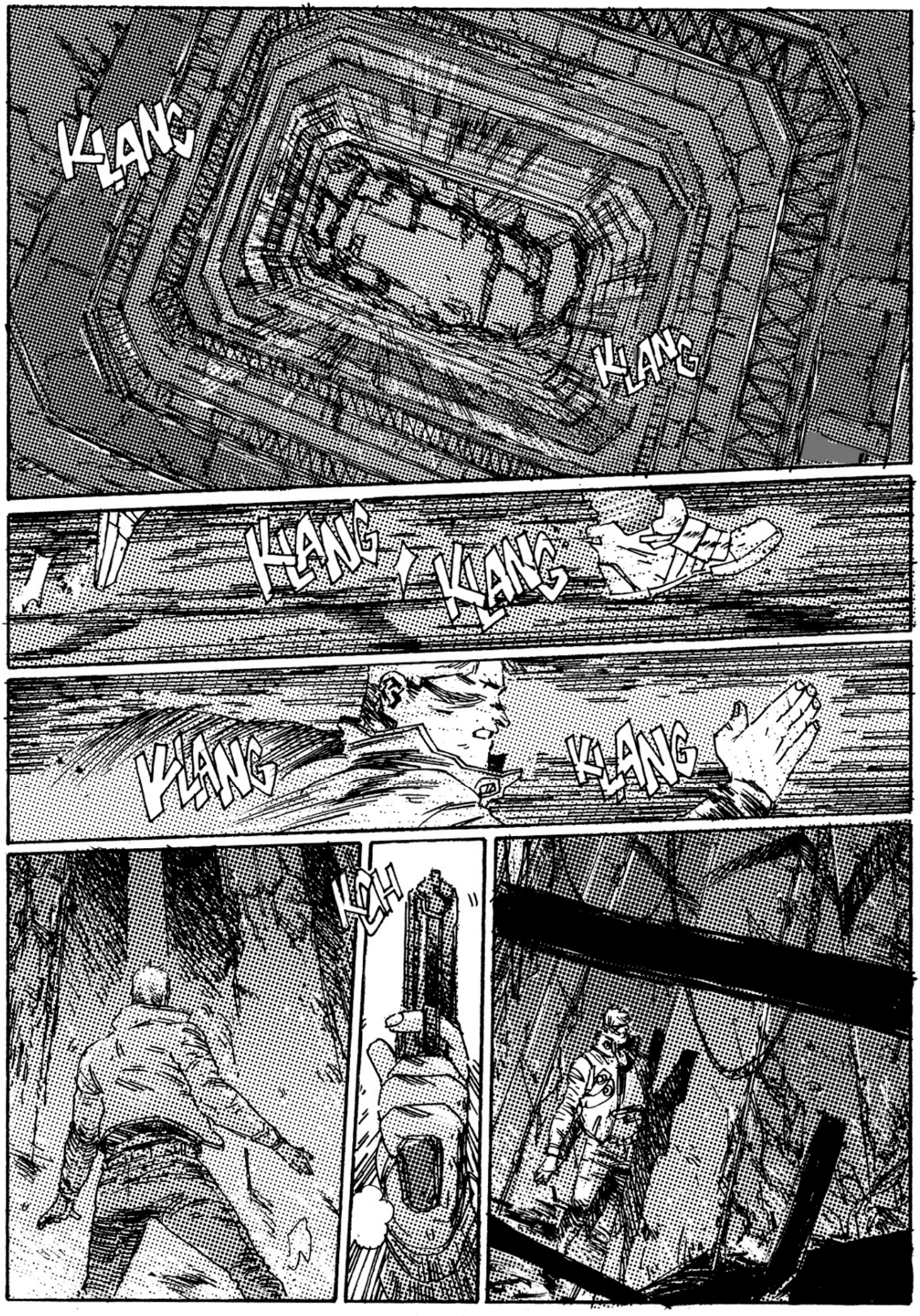

VMMM

SKT-
POLICE

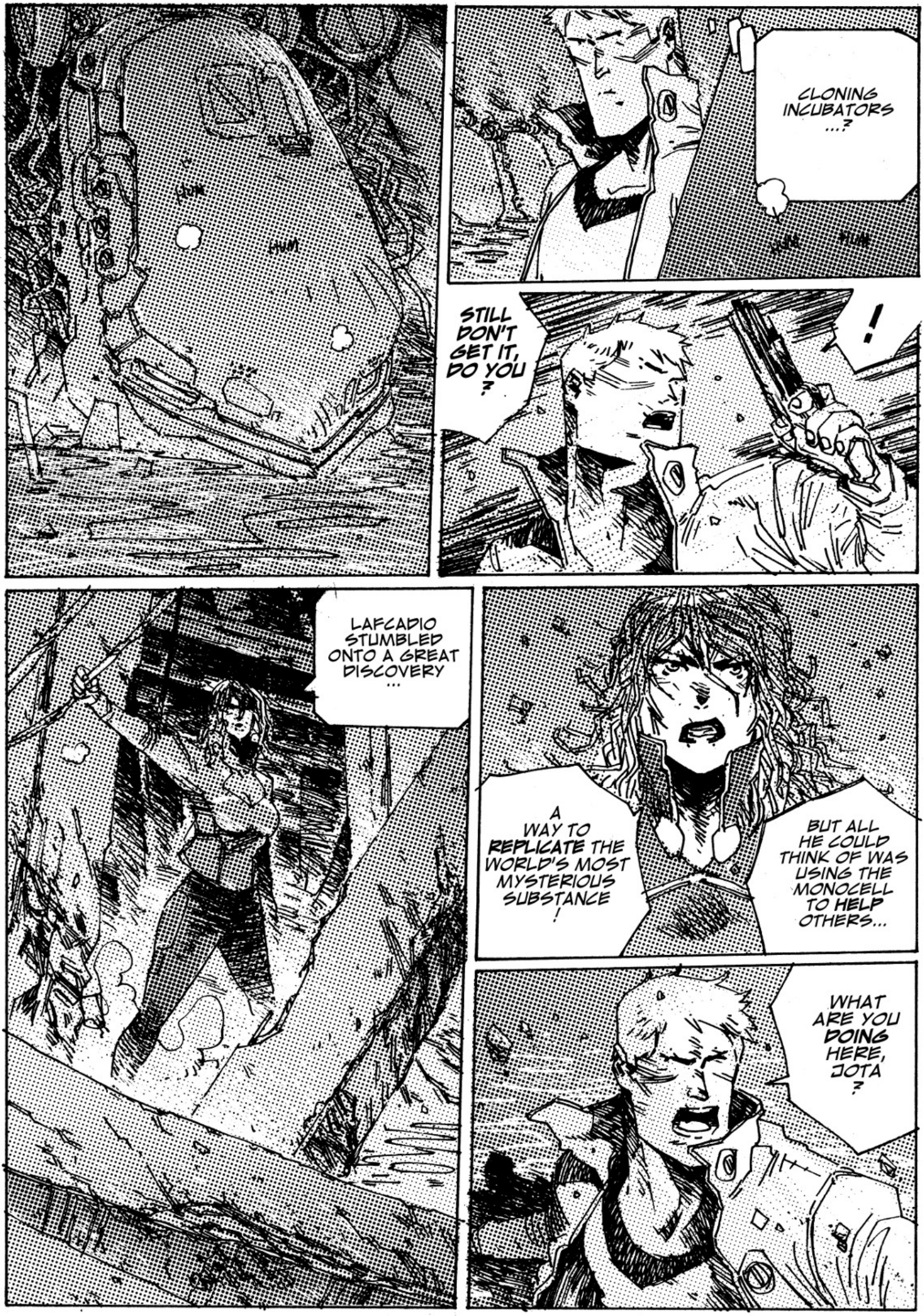
SKRAT
GUESS BOOLE WASN'T MESSING WITH US, CHIEF.
LET HIM *WALK*.
DONE.
BACKUP IS ON THE WAY, SOLANO.
THEY'LL BE THERE IN--
BY THE TIME BACKUP GETS HERE, JOTA WILL BE HALFWAY TO *HONG KONG* ...
I'M GOING AFTER HER.

CLAK
WASHING THE *EVIDENCE* AWAY, HUH?
URK!
GROSH

WHERE DID ALL THIS JJ-180 COME FROM?
FWSHOOM
!
JOTA.
SHWM


KLANG
KLANG
KANG
KANG
KLANG
KLANG
KCH

WHAT THE--
SPLOSH

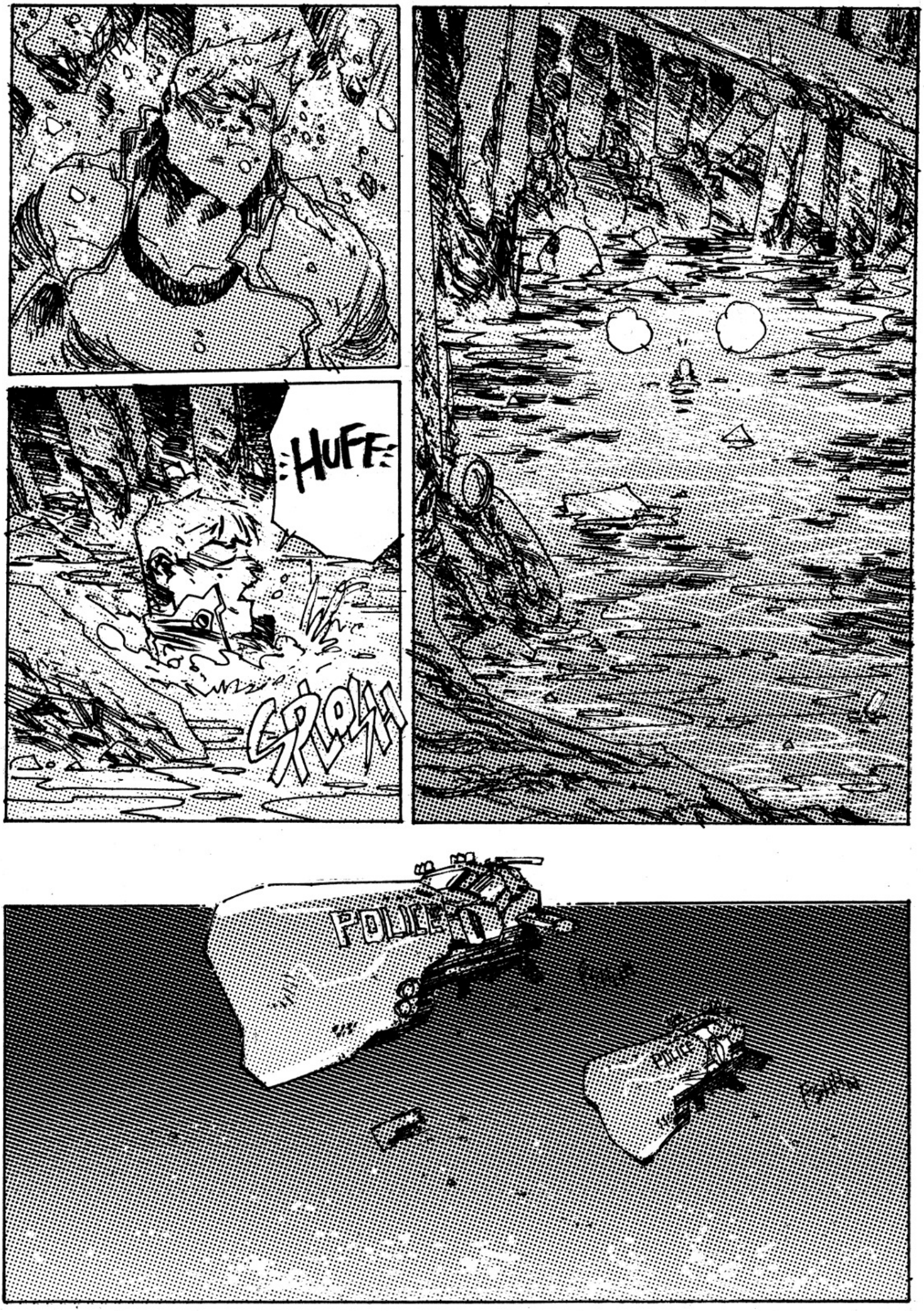

CLONING INCUBATORS ...?
STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU ?
!
LAFCADIO STUMBLED ONTO A GREAT DISCOVERY ...
A WAY TO REPLICATE THE WORLD'S MOST MYSTERIOUS SUBSTANCE !
BUT ALL HE COULD THINK OF WAS USING THE MONOCELL TO HELP OTHERS...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, JOTA ?

CRACK
KRAK
APPLYING THE MONOCELL'S PROPERTIES TO AN ARTIFICIAL NERVOUS SYSTEM, WE WERE ABLE TO EXTRACT A SUBSTANCE VERY CLOSE TO THE DRUG!
YOU KILLED LAFCADIO TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
I HAD NO CHOICE, ONCE I MADE A DISCOVERY OF MY OWN!
THE NERVOUS SYSTEMS WE HAD CREATED EXHIBITED POWERFUL BRAIN WAVE OSCILLATIONS!
HSHA

CAN YOU IMAGINE? AN ARMY OF ESPERS UNDER MY CONTROL!
LAFCADIO AND THE SYNDICATE COULDN'T SEE THE POSSIBILITIES, AND THEY PAID FOR THAT!
NEW ATHENS WILL KNEEL BEFORE US, SOLANO!
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS...
DON'T YOU SEE I HAVE DISCOVERED THE NEXT STEP IN MAN'S EVOLUTION?
SHAAA

IT'S A SHAME YOU WON'T BE AROUND TO SEE IT, SOLANO!
FWAP

KISH
SKATE
KBOOM


HUFF
CRASH
POLICE
POLICE

FSSHH
SHHH
SO IT WAS ALL JOTA'S DOING IN THE END...
MOST OF IT, AT LEAST.
THE DEATHS OF LAFCADIO AND CYCUZSEK WERE HER OWN DOING ENTIRELY.

WHAT ABOUT THE DRUG?
JOTA HAD HER HAND IN THAT, BUT THE BLAME SHOULD FALL WITH THE SYNDICATE.
THEY PUT A LOT OF JJ-180 ON THE STREET, AND THEY WERE THE ONES TO SET UP THE LAB IN THE OLD CITY.
AND WHAT'S THIS I'M HEARING ABOUT AN ARMY OF TELEPATHS?
TO CREATE THE JJ-180 CLONE, THE SYNDICATE HAD TO CREATE ARTIFICIAL BRAINS, WHICH THEY GREW USING THE MONOCELL. THE DRUG WAS MADE FROM THE BY-PRODUCTS OF THIS OPERATION.
JOTA SEEMED TO BELIEVE THE NERVOUS SYSTEMS THEY WERE MAKING WERE CAPABLE OF ADVANCED EXTRA-SENSORY PERCEPTION.
NO CLONE NO PROBLEM
NO
OUR FLESH IS NOT A PRODUCT
SO SHE WAS PLANNING ON USING THOSE BRAINS TO CREATE AN ARMY OF AUGMENTED HUMANS.
IN THEORY, BUT I DOUBT IT WOULD'VE WORKED AT ALL. JOTA SEEMED TO BE TOO BLINDED BY HER POWER-TRIP TO SEE THE SCIENCE BEHIND HER PLAN WAS FLAWED.
CITIZENS OF NEW ATHENS, YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE! THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH HAS ISSUED A WARNING CONCERNING THE ACIDITY LEVELS IN TODAY'S SHOWERS --
FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY --

LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE.
YEAH.
YOU THINK THEY'LL KEEP PROTESTING, EVEN IN THE ACID RAIN?
A LITTLE RAIN ISN'T GOING TO STOP PEOPLE FROM MAKING A STATEMENT, KID.
THEY'RE DEDICATED, YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE THEM THAT.
ALL THE MAJOR CORPORATIONS ARE LOBBYING FOR THIS CLONING BILL, THOUGH. IT'S AS GOOD AS PASSED.
IT'S A LOST BATTLE.
NO SUCH THING AS A LOST BATTLE, SOLANO.
SEE YOU AT HQ.

WONDER HOW LONG THIS CITY WILL BEHAVE ITSELF
...
I COULD USE A BREATHER HERE...
ZIP
POLICE
?

PRIVATE ENEMY - END

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